

Commission's Climate Change Workplan and Terms of Reference for the Assessment of CMMs Susceptible to Climate Change Impacts

(SC20-EB-WP-02)

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WCPFC20 Outcomes

Paragraphs 218-225 of the WCPFC20 Summary Record outline tasks decided on by WCPFC20 regarding climate change including:

- The Commission recommended co-leads develop a Commission workplan for addressing climate change on WCPFC fisheries in the Convention Area.
- The co-leads would use the WCPFC Convention and Resolution 2019-01 as guides for that work.
- The draft workplan would be discussed and considered by each subsidiary body in 2024, with a view to taking it to WCPFC21 for consideration.

Summary of Work by Co-Leads

To date, The Republic of the Marshall Islands and the United States co-leads have:

- Developed a draft *Workplan for addressing climate change on WCPFC fisheries in the Convention Area* (SC20-EB-WP-02);
- Developed a draft *Terms of Reference for the CMM Climate Assessment* (SC20-EB-WP-02);
- Met with WCPFC Secretariat and the SSP to discuss both draft documents and the process for introducing them at each subsidiary body to seek input; and
- Met with the NC & SC Chairs to discuss the process for introducing and discussing the documents during NC20 & SC20.

Draft WCPFC Climate Change Workplan

The draft WCPFC climate change workplan under consideration at SC20:

- Sets out the tasks and responsibilities to organise and monitor WCPFC work on climate change across the Commission; and
- Will be reviewed by subsidiary bodies and CCMs and is open for input; and
- Is a starting point and a living document;

Draft Workplan–SC20 Input Needed

The draft workplan currently identifies the following potential actions for SC to address climate change impacts on WCPFC fisheries:

- Continue the ongoing work with respect to implementing an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM), including developing the ecosystem indicator report cards; climate and ecosystem modeling; enhancing information on essential habitats for WCPFC target and bycatch species, and on the potential changes to species interactions and spatial overlap in target and bycatch species
- Continue the ongoing work in the SC to agree to climate indicators to track the impact of climate change and ecosystem changes, and develop a process to provide advice to the Commission on the performance of those indicators and the impact of climate change on WCPFC target stocks, non-target species and other scientific aspects, and continue to update and discuss the Ecosystem and Climate Indicator Report Card annually
- Continue exploring ways to enhance data collection systems on environmental and climate information to inform the modeling
- Consider how the SC structure might be updated to facilitate climate change work, while still maintaining other core SC functions, and report on these deliberations and any conclusions to the Commission

Draft Workplan–SC20 Input Needed (continued)

The draft workplan currently identifies the following potential actions for SC to address climate change impacts on WCPFC fisheries:

- SC to include as part of the standing agenda on climate change a review of available data to inform the Commission on climate change impacts to stocks and ecosystems in the WCPO, and the potential effects of climate change on related fishing activities including discussion on the on incorporating climate considerations in the development of harvest strategies and management procedures. The annual review of available data should also provide advice and recommendations to the Commission which identifies information gaps, necessary analyses, and any additional tasks that may further enhance the Commission’s ability to account for climate change impacts on WCPFC fisheries
- Coordinate with SPC, ISC and IATTC in continued consideration of how to incorporate climate change advice into stock assessments and associated management recommendations
- Consider outcomes from the CMM climate susceptibility assessment and discuss appropriate ways to incorporate scientific advice that may assist in future development of CMMs based on the outcomes of the assessment
- [PLACEHOLDER FOR ANY ADDITIONAL TASKS DEVELOPED BY THE SC]

Draft TORs for Assessment of CMM Susceptibility to Climate Change Impacts

Per Paragraphs 222-223 in the Summary Record of WCPFC20:

- A scope and feasibility study of undertaking an assessment of active CMMs to determine CMM provisions that may be susceptible to climate change was requested and is addressed by the Secretariat and SSP's Working Paper ***A Review of the Scope and Feasibility of an Assessment of CMM Susceptibility to Climate Change Impacts*** (SC20-EB-WP-07).
- The Draft TORs are intended to support discussion pertaining to SC20-EB-WP-07.

Action Requested from SC

Input is sought from the SC on both the Draft Workplan and the Draft Terms of Reference for an assessment of CMM susceptibility to climate change impacts

Thank you